

1894

SIXTY YEARS' SERVICE TO THE BLIND

1954

# CALCUTTA BLIND SCHOOL BEHALA

( Founded by The Late Rev. Lal Bihari Shah )



Annual Report  
for

1953 - 54.

# THE BLIND



O say what is that thing call'd light,  
Which I must ne'er enjoy;  
What are the blessings of the sight,  
O tell your poor blind boy !

You talk of wondrous things you see;  
You say the sun shines bright;  
I feel him warm, but how can he;  
Or make it day or night ?

My day or night myself I make,  
Whene'er I sleep or play;  
And could I ever keep awake  
With me 'twere always day.

With heavy sighs I often hear  
You mourn my hapless woe,  
But sure with patience I can bear  
A loss I ne'er can know.

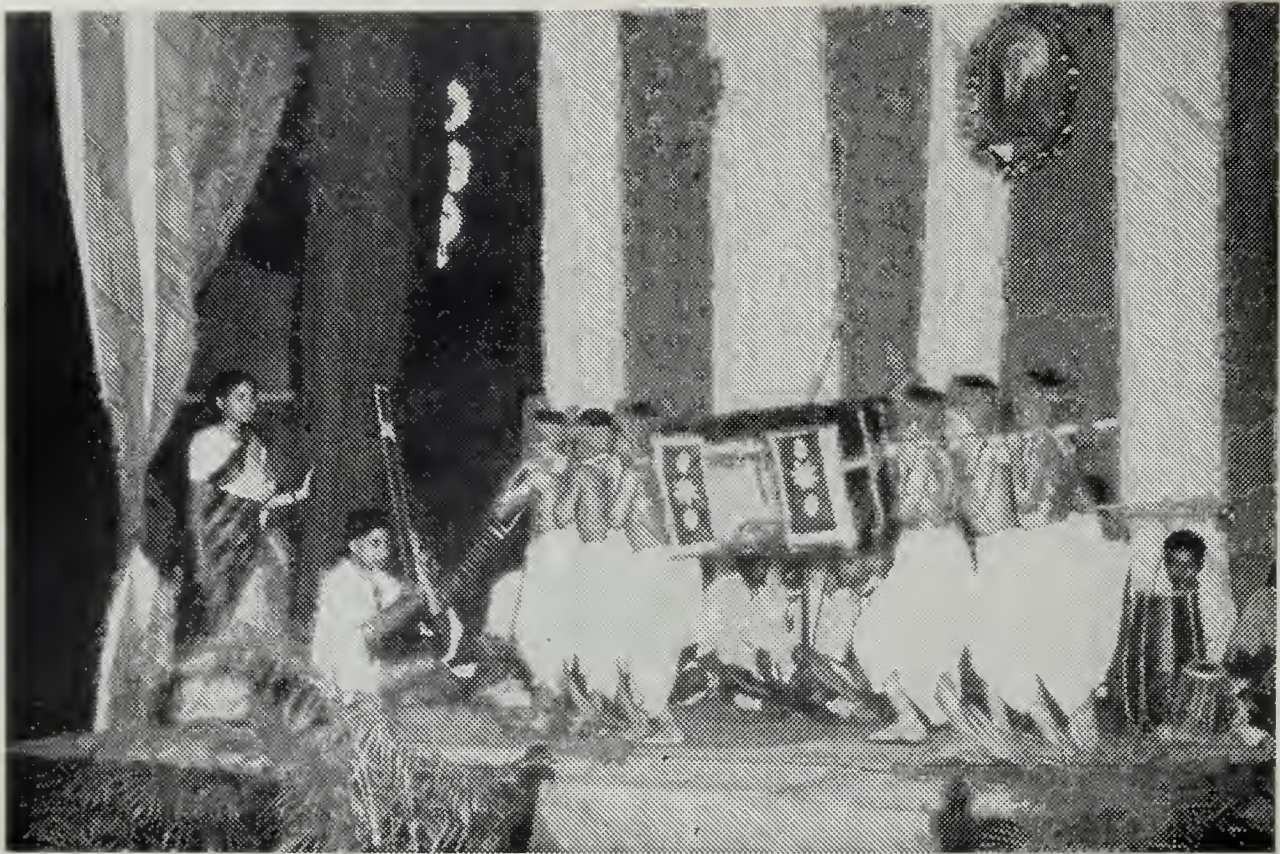
Then let not what I cannot have,  
My cheer of mind destroy,  
Whilst thus I sing, I am a king,  
Although a poor blind boy.

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD CONTINUE TO REST ON OUR HONEST LABOURS.



A view of the Buildings and Swimming Pool of the School. The ground floor of the Main Building was opened by H. E. Lord Lytton, the then Governor of Bengal, in 1925, and the first floor by Her Excellency Marchioness of Linlithgow in 1937.





On the Founder's Day of 1953. The little ones are doing an item. Maharajadhiraja Sir Udoy Chand Mahtab Bahadur of Burdwan presided.



The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Government of India, visited the school on the 27th August, 1953. Principal Amal Shah is explaining the method of Braille printing. The latest Braille shorthand writer is in front of the girl student.



## PATRONS

H.E. Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, Governor of West Bengal.  
Mrs. Bangabala Mookerjee.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### President:

The Hon'ble Shri C. C. Biswas (Union Law Minister).

### Vice-Presidents:

The Maharajadhiraja Sir Uday Chand Mahtab Bahadur of Burdwan.  
The Rt. Hon'ble Lord Aroon Sinha of Raipur.  
The Most Rev. Bishop Arabindo Mookerjee, Metropolitan of India.  
Shri Kanai Lal Jatia.  
\* Shri D. J. Cohen.

### Honorary Secretary:

\* Shri K. C. Gupta.

### Honorary Additional Secretary:

\* Principal Amal Shah.

### Honorary Treasurer:

\* Rai M. N. Gupta Bahadur.

## M e m b e r s :-

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sircar.  
The Hon'ble Dr. R. Ahmed, Minister, Govt. of West Bengal.  
His Worship Shri N.N. Mookerjee, Mayor of Calcutta.  
\* Shri Mahabir Prasad Jatia.  
\* Shri A. K. Shah.  
\* Shri U.N. Banerji, Chairman, South Suburban Municipality.  
\* Major E. J. Somerset.  
\* Major S. C. Dutt.  
\* The Rt. Rev. S. K. Chatterjee.  
Shri K. P. Goenka, Ex-Sheriff of Calcutta.  
\* John F. Bartos, Esq, President, Calcutta Rotary Club.  
Shri B. Sen Gupta, Managing Director, U.P.I.  
Shri Anandilal Poddar, M.L.A.

\* Members of the School Committee.

Mr. D. J. Cohen, Chairman of the School Committee.

### Honorary Consultants:

Dr. Merle E. Frampton, Ph.D., LL.D., Litt.D.,  
Principal, The New York Institute for the Education  
of the Blind, and Trustee, International Board of  
"Education of the Blind", U.S.A.  
American Foundation for the Overseas Blind Inc.  
The Royal National Institute for the Blind, London.  
The National Association for the Blind, West Bengal.

Government Visitors:

The District Magistrate, 24 Parganas.  
The Commissioner of Police of Calcutta.  
The Civil Surgeon, 24 Parganas.

Honorary Auditors:

Messrs. George Road & Co., Chartered Accountants.  
Messrs. S. K. Sinha Roy & Co.,  
(Appointed by the Government of West Bengal)

Bankers:

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.  
The Imperial Bank of India.

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AN APPEAL

No affliction is worse than permanent blindness, and no cause worthy of greater sympathy and support. In helping us, you only help the Blind.

We receive grants-in-aid from the Government; but these being inadequate, we have always to depend on the public-minded people for financial assistance. To spare us this constant worry, a PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND of Rs. 2,50,000 is badly needed. And this means we need only 1,000 charitably-disposed persons to come forward with donations of Rs. 250/- each.

Will you not volunteer to raise and/or to contribute to this Fund ? Will you not help us to help the Cause of the Blind ?

T H A N K S.

ORGANIZATION

Principal:

Amal Shah.

OFFICE

Miss Ira Dutt, Secretary to the Principal.

(Retired in November, 1953)

Shri Purna Chandra Das, Cashier.

(Retired in December, 1953).

Shri Nripendra Nath Chakravarty, Secy. to the Principal.

Shri Phani Bhusan Sen, Cashier & Office Assistant.

Shri Jibondhan Chakravarty, Auditor.

Shri Bijoy Bhusan Pan, Collecting Sircar.

Department of Health:

Physicians:

Major (Dr) S. C. Nath.

Capt. I. B. Ghosal.

Dr. Sukumar Mookerjee.

Dr. Sachimohan Mookerjee.

Infirmary:

Eye Infirmary, Medical College Hospitals.

Compounder:

Shri Sunil Nath.

Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeons:

Major E. J. Somerset.

Major S. C. Dutt.

Capt. K. L. Sen.

Honorary Child Specialists:

Dr. K. C. Chaudhury.

Dr. N. G. Mazumdar.

Honorary Dental Surgeon:

Dr. Aditya Gupta.

S C H O O L:

Boarding

\* Dhaani Shyamol, Supdt.

\* Kinoo Mia, Warden.

Mrs. K. Mookerjee, Matron.

\* Miss S. Roy, Warden.

\* Arati Naug, Warden.

\* S. Sen Gupta, Warden.

\* G. Daw, Warden.

Mrs. R. Dutt, Asst. Matron.

\* Miss M. Mullick, Warden.

Shri S. Das Poddar, Warden.



Literary Department

\* Kali Kinkar Roy Chowdhury, Senior Teacher.  
\* Satya Ranjan Das, Teacher.  
\* Sourin Das Potdar, Teacher.  
\* Sabitri Roy, Teacher.  
\* Purnima Roy, Teacher.  
\* Puspa Sen Gupta, KG Teacher.  
\* Sibabrata Sen Gupta, Teacher.  
\* Gopinath Daw, Teacher.

Braille Department:

\* Mira Mullick.  
\* S. Roy Chowdhury.

Music Department:

\* K. C. Dey, Honorary Professor.  
\* S. R. Dass, Music Director.  
\* D. Shyamol, Percussion.  
\* B. M. Banerjee, Modern Songs.  
\* H. Mazumdar, Tabla.

Industrial Department:

Dharani Shyamol, Chief Instructor.  
Kinoo Mia, Assistant Instructor.  
Mrs. P. Chatterji, Ssst. Instructor.  
R. M. Jasani, Asst. Instructor.

Physical Education Department:

Sushil Roy, Instructor.  
D. Shyamol, Group Scout Master.  
P. Sen Gupta, Girl Guide Captain.  
K. Mia, Cub Master.

"MUKUL"  
(A Bengali Braille Magazine)

Editorial Board:

Mrs. Aruna Shah, Honorary President.  
Shri Jibon Paul, Editor.  
Srimati A. Nag, Editor.

\* Blind.



## CALCUTTA BLIND SCHOOL

Annual Report of the Board of Governors.

(Presented by Shri K. C. Gupta, Honorary Secretary).

It is pleasing to report that The Calcutta Blind School has maintained its tradition of progress in its various branches of training. It is conceivable that the education of the handicapped requires extra care and patience on the part of the teachers and trainers and I take this opportunity to thank the Principal and his staff for the efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties. The handicapped pupils, specially the blind, have a keener sense of hearing and touch and the school has always tried to develop the mind of the pupils of this school through these sense organs. The demonstrations of music and the handicrafts of the trainees will convince the public that the care of the trainers and the teachers have been amply rewarded. In the field of sports, the pupils of this school fare marvellously well and this aptitude which is developed by the school proves that they are keen on physical exercise like ordinary children endowed with all the senses. The students have education on lines approved by modern scientific methods of which the Principal has an extensive knowledge acquired in and outside India. Every attempt is made to develop the spirit of self-reliance, self-respect and the spirit of comradeship in the taught. It is well-known that the handicapped child is very sensitive.

During the years under review the school had 165 students in its rolls - 110 boys and 55 girls. The school has scope to include another 30 pupils but the chronic shortage of funds stands in the way of expansion. Every part of the existing buildings is utilised for the accommodation of the pupils and the departments.

It was felt that a department for the rehabilitation of ex-students allowing them scope to carry on vocations in which they receive training in the school, would lead as much to their happiness. It was also to act as a pattern for the public to give shape to the plan for rehabilitating the pupils after they leave school. The Principal has started an experimental Sheltered Workshop in which ten ex-pupils have been accommodated and it is noteworthy that each one of the residents is earning money by work. The Board of Governors will no doubt like to expand this part of their work if funds are forthcoming.

On behalf of the Governors, I take this opportunity to express gratitude to His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal, The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. B.C. Roy and other notable persons who take a keen interest in the affairs of the school.

At the Founders Day held on the 8th March 1953, Maharajadhiraja Sir Uday Chand Mahtab Bahadur of Burdwan encouraged the students and the staff in his presidential speech and the Maharani Bahadura distributed the prizes. The Hon'ble Minister for Education was present as the Chief Guest.

The Death Anniversary of the revered founder of the Institution was held on the 4th July last year when Dr. R. Ahmed, Minister of Agriculture presided. The function drew a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen to honour the memory of the great benefactor.

We had other notable visitors during the year under review. They encouraged the management with their kind sympathies and expressed satisfaction. The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Union Health Minister was pleased to pass a long time with the pupils and very kindly promised to secure a Braille Printing Press. She donated Rs.10,000/-. Mrs. Krishna Hattisingh, Chairman, Panel of Child Welfare of the Social Welfare Board of the Govt. of India kindly visited the school and evinced interest which will be an asset to the institution. Lady Alexander Clutterbuck congratulated the authorities after her kind visit to the school. Lt. Col. Sir Clutha Mackenzie, U.N.O. Expert also visited the school and praised the work. There were other notable visits to the Institution. I take this opportunity to thank the ladies and gentlemen who encouraged the students and the management by their kind visits and words of sympathy and encouragement.

We are also grateful to the Government of India for sanctioning a grant of Rs.5,000/-; to the Government of West Bengal for recurring and non-recurring grants of nearly Rs.50,000/-; to the Corporation of Calcutta for their annual grant of Rs.5,300/- and to numerous other donors for their kind contributions. An institution like the Calcutta Blind School can only function through the generosity of the public and I earnestly appeal to all our citizens to help this institution. Every help, however small, will be thankfully received and properly spent.

Principal Amal Shah, I may mention in this connection, started the Founder's Fund which has collected Rs.30,000/-.

The 20th February, 1954.

Sd/-, K. C. Gupta,  
Honorary Secretary.



## HELP THE BLIND TO HELP THEMSELVES

From sorrow to Joy : From Darkness to Light : From Death to Life



In our Kindergarten the children learn the objects by touch.





Lady Alexander Clutterbuck, wife of High Commissioner for U. K. visited the school on the 16th December, 1953. Shri M. P. Jatia, Chairman of the Finance Committee welcomed her on behalf of the Governors.



Maharani Adiranl Bahadura of Burdwan distributed the prizes at the last Annual Prize Distribution.



At the 1953 Founder's Day. The Hon'ble Shri Panna Lal Bose, Education Minister, Government of West Bengal, was the Chief Guest. Five thousand people attended. From left :—Sri K. C. Gupta, Hony. Secy, Mrs. Aruna Shah, Maharani and Maharaja of Burdwan, the Edu. Minister, Rai Bahadur S. B. Dey (who donated Rs. 5000/-), Rai Bahadur M. N. Gupta, Hony. Treasurer, Shri A. K. Shah and Shri U. N. Banerjee, Members of the Board of Governors.



General K. M. Cariappa visited the School twice and said in his message, "...It is a good cause—wellworth helping. Every rupee helps".

Mr. D. J. Cohen, Chairman of the School Committee & Vice-President welcomed General Cariappa,



## The Principal's Report for 1953.

(Presented by Mr. Amal Shah)

This is the fifty-ninth Annual Report of the School and is it my proud privilege to present it to you. Annual Reports frequently contain only the current statistics, and a chronological account of the year's happenings, but I am not attempting to do so in my Report. I would request you kindly to get a copy of the Souvenir Report for 1952-53 and read in detail about the work of our departments. Both in academic and other vocational subjects, the Calcutta Blind School offers more than is generally realised. Space does not permit a detailed account of all the courses we offer. Our programme of work is, of course, carefully planned to meet the needs of blind students.

### OUR AIM

"Our aim has been frequently described as the educating of blind youth to play a contributory part in society. This is indeed a major aim, but perhaps in the light of modern educational thinking, it is not quite adequate. Handicapped people must not only contribute, but for complete success they must feel themselves as integral part of their community, with the handicap kept as inconspicuous as possible. This means that our pupils must not only be well trained vocationally, and socially, but they must be helped to develop characters, and to acquire a superior understanding both of human nature and of their own personalities. They ought to learn to accept their limitations with a minimum of bitterness, and a determination to prevent their handicap from dominating their lives. A most important factor in this educational process is, of course, the calibre of our Staff, the choice and training of which is undoubtedly one of the most serious tasks which falls to the Principal to perform".

### THE STAFF

Among our Teachers we find many types of personality and a wide variety of backgrounds. Many of the teachers are the ex-students of this institution, proficient in their own work and are capable of teaching the blind. They have a special love for their blind brothers and sisters. We try to create a family atmosphere in which alone a feeling of security can flourish. Some of the teachers are with us for many years and they have dedicated their lives to this noble work. But some of the new Teachers can not stay with us for long as they find life in the "Blind School" boring and work with the blind students arduous. Shri Purna Chandra Das, a member of our Office Staff, has retired last year after thirty-six years of devoted service. Srimati Ira Dutt, Secretary to the Principal, also resigned last November as she got married. Both these two members of the Staff devotedly carried on their duties and worked very hard with me. It was only possible for me to raise the income of the School from Rs. 55,800/- (in 1945) to Rs. 1,34,000/- (in 1953) because of their loyalty and sense of duty. I wish to thank them and the members of the present Staff for much devoted work, which I know, is all the more valuable because it is so willingly given and frequently unseen.



### OUR PUPILS

Our students not only come from West Bengal but from all parts of India. There are at present 165 boys and girls in the School. The youngest one is only four years of age. Our students are not like pupils of an ordinary school. Each one of them has his or her own problems and we have to help them individually to surmount their difficulties. Amongst our pupils, there are 60 orphan children. Their condition can better be imagined than described. They need more love and care so that they can be normal and useful boys and girls. It is always my desire to take them to a Camp to a hill station or sea-side during the Pujah holidays, but owing to austerity budget of the school, I could not hold a Camp for them last year. In 1952, I organised a Camp for a month at Hazaribagh which our pupils enjoyed a great deal. I hope it will be possible for us to hold such a Camp this year for "our children" (I do not like to call them orphans), as they need some change and their lives should be filled with joy and happiness.

### EDUCATION

During the last four decades, in order to lighten the handicap of blindness, the ideal of giving a complete education and training to the pupils has been kept in view, and an honest effort has been made to give the blind an education equal, and if possible, superior to that of the seeing compeer. Society must admit that mere charitable care is no longer enough, and the School with a modern educational programme and outlook can not be classed merely as a charitable institution. The more this view-point is recognised both by the Government and the general public, the more the School will grow in usefulness.

We teach Literary, Music, Industrial and Vocational courses to our students. Detailed report of these sections will be found in the Souvenir Volume published in 1953. I can safely say that the work of all the class rooms have been greatly improved during the year under review. As soon as we are able to appoint a few more trained teachers we will be able to improve the work with rapid strides.

### OUR EX-STUDENTS

Since last four years, we are able to award scholarships to our successful ex-students for college education. Several of them have done excellent results in the University examinations. Four of them are now in the Presidency College, Asutosh College, Barisha College and Union Technogical College, Serampore. Our ex-students are graduates of Calcutta University whose triumph over their disabilities is the greatest proof of the unique success of the school. Many of the ex-students took useful vocations as teachers, artisans, music masters, singers, and even business. One of them, is Shri Sadhan Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Barrister-at-law who has been recently elected as a M.L.A. of the Central. Several others are well-known Professors and Lecturers in the Universities and Colleges, some of whom are double M.As. We are indeed very proud of them. Mr. Sadhan Gupta is a good friend of our School and we rejoice on his elevation.



### HOSTEL OF BLIND ARTISANS

From the end of last year, we have started a Hostel for our ex-students who have specialised in the Industrial and vocational work. We have at present 12 such blind artisans and they are housed in the annexe of the Principal's Lodge in charge of Shri Dharani Shymol, our Hostel Superintendent and Chief Instructor of the Industrial Department. Our aim is to help them to earn their own living and gradually become self dependent. It is gratifying to note that in the first month they have been able to earn Rs. 530/- by selling their own finished products. I request the donors and benefactors of the School to send them orders for cane furniture, choir mats, re-caning of chairs etc. This is a rehabilitation programme of the new scheme submitted to the Social Welfare Board of the Government of India. We are thankful to the Central Government for sanctioning a capital grant of Rs. 5000/- for 1954-55 for this new project. Mrs. Krishna Huttisingh, Chairman, Panel on Child Welfare of the Central Social Welfare Board recently paid a visit and inspected the work of our blind artisans. She was highly impressed and promised to help us in future to build Rehabilitation Cottages for the Blind Artisans. We hope someday our dreams will come true. It is needless for me to emphasise the importance of this work. Unless we are able to do after-care work, it is unseess to train the blind boys and girls.

### BRAILLE PRINTING PRESS

Perhaps, you know that our pupils have to emboss their books in Braille by hand, page by page, in the Braille slates and writers. It is a very tedious method and the progress is greatly hampered. I have been trying to secure a Braille printing press for our School for the last thirteen years but owing to many unavoidable reasons could not get one. Last year, I ventured to make a request to Mr. Gestetner of Messrs. Gestetner Limited, London, through His Excellency Shri B.G. Kher, our High Commissioner in U.K., and he was kind in making a gift of a Braille duplicating machine. Messrs. Gestetner Limited, London, has evolved a new Braille Duplicator. The device is not very expensive and appears to be suitable for running off a limited number of copies. A special stencil is cut on a Stainsby Braille Writer. It is then transferred to an ordinary Gestetner Duplicator, which contains special ink. Copies on special paper are run off the duplicator in the ordinary way. The wet sheet of paper is then put into a trough containing special thermo-plastic powder. Finally, the sheet of paper is taken into a Braille heater where the dots solidify. In this way number of copies can be run off in a few minutes. The main advantage of this device is that the dots are non-compressible. It is, however, not yet known how far this device would prove useful in the production of Braille books. We are now printing short articles etc., in this Gestetner Braille Duplicators.

I explained the urgent need of a small Braille Printing Press to the Honorable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Government of India, when she visited us last year. She was in sympathy with our difficulties and immediately wrote to Dr. M.E. Frampton, Principal of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind and to Mr. Par Danforth, Chief of Mission of the CARE, U.S.A. Dr. Frampton graciously acceded to the request of Rajkumariji and promised to make a gift of small Braille Printing Press to our School. The cost of such a Press will be approximately Rs. 25,000/-. The Care Mission in U.S.A., has been considering to supply some more Braille equipment. We have also approached the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, New York, for Braille apparatus and appliances.



The Government of India is now considering to sanction my air passage to and from New York, so that I can go to Dr. Frampton to learn the Braille printing and bring the much-needed Braille Printing Press and other Braille equipment. It is gratifying to note that the Government of West Bengal has been pleased to sanction a sum of Rs.5,000/- towards my deputation account. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Dr. B.C. Roy, our kindhearted Chief Minister, for his sympathy and help.

We are most thankful to Dr. M.E. Frampton for this valuable gift. We also express our deepest gratitude to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur for her love, interest and kindness. We shall never forget the generosity of Dr. Frampton and Rajkumariji.

The Government of India wish to help us to establish this Braille printing press in our School on condition that the Press when established would cater to the needs not only of West Bengal but also Assam and Orissa. The Board of Governors of our School are agreeable to fulfil the condition which the Education Ministry, Central Government, intend to stipulate.

#### WORLD ASSEMBLY OF THE EDUCATORS OF THE BLIND.

The World Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind will be held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in August, 1954. The leading experts of the education of the blind from all over the world will attend this World Assembly. The National Association for the Blind has elected me as a Delegate to represent India at this International Conference. I have been permitted by my Board of Governors to participate in this Assembly and then proceed to New York to bring the Braille Printing Press. The International Union for Child Welfare of Geneva has invited me to attend the World Child Welfare Congress, as a Delegate from India, which will be held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, from the 30th August to the 4th September, 1954. They are kind in arranging for my return air passage from London to Zagreb. I propose to leave India by the end of July this year and hope to return home within three months after completing my important missions abroad. I need your good wishes for the success of my work abroad.

#### APPEAL

Before commencing the circulation of our 59th Annual Report, which explains in brief the humble and unceasing humanitarian services rendered by the Calcutta Blind School, India's pioneer institution of its kind, towards the amelioration of the pathetic condition of the blind people. I solemnly dedicate this Appeal at the altar of the Almighty God with due homage and devotion, and earnestly pray to Him to bestow upon us His manifold blessings and to give us the wisdom and power to overcome all the difficulties we are facing at present and to love and serve the blind with perseverance and courage for ever.

The mutual problems of education and rehabilitation of our blind children and adults draw close in bond in brotherly action. Our tasks, namely, those of normalizing the blind, making them economically independent, developing them to become useful productive citizens, educating the public to their accomplishments with the willingness to help the blind to help themselves, these are common tasks which we must do together, by means of exchanging ideas, literature and above all leadership.



We ought to reaffirm our faith in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. By this declaration, men and women of all nations, recognising that Mankind owes to the Child the best that it has to give, declare and accept it as their paramount duty to meet this obligation in all respects. While addressing the International Conferences on Child Welfare in Vienna in 1952 and in Bombay in 1953, I urged the delegates to remember that the Blind Child must be protected beyond and above all considerations; cared for with due respect; must be given the means requisite for its normal developments, materially, morally, and spiritually; the Blind Child that is hungry must be fed; the sick must be nursed; those mentally handicapped must be helped; the maladjusted child must be re-educated. Above all, the Blind Child must be brought up in the consciousness that its talents must be devoted to the service of its fellowmen.

In his appeal, Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, Governor of West Bengal, Patron of the School, said, "I cannot think of any object more befitting our generosity than the Calcutta Blind School which has established a glorious record of service to blind children. It should be the sacred duty of every citizen therefore to help those suffering from this greivous disability".

May I not hope that amid your multifarious interests and occupation, the Cause of the Blind may retain a very warm corner in your heart - a heart that has never failed to vibrate in warm, loving response to every call of humanity and philanthropy.

Respectfully submitted by

Amal Shah,

Principal,  
(Member, World Council for the Welfare  
of the Blind, U.S.A.)

Behala,

The 15th February, 1954.





## MESSAGES FROM DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE.

### Appeal of the Prime Minister of India.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru said, "Not only from a social point of view but also from an individual point of view, it is important that the blind are trained to become useful citizens".

The President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, sent his blessings and good wishes. He sent a donation of Rs. 2,000/-.

Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, the Governor of West Bengal, said, "The Calcutta Blind School, a pioneer institution of its kind in India, has rendered immense service in the past for the relief of children who have been denied the power of vision. Their lot in the World in these days of grim struggle for existence even for those who are blessed with the light of nature, is particularly hard. It should be the sacred duty of every citizen therefore to help those suffering from this grievous disability. I cannot think of any object more befitting our generosity than the Calcutta Blind School which has established a glorious record of service to blind children of several generations by enabling them to surmount their handicap in life and becoming self-supporting and self-respecting citizens. Mrs. Mookerjee and I take great pleasure in sending our good wishes and blessings to all who are carrying on the admirable work of the Founder of the Blind School".

Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal, visited the School and sent donations of Rs. 2,000/- with his blessings and good wishes.

Lady Alexander Clutterbuck, wife of the U.K. High Commissioner in India, visited the School and spent two hours. She sent a donation and helped us to get Rs.23,000/-, generous donations from Calcutta Rangers Club.

Shri B. G. Kher, High Commissioner for India in U.K., visited the School. He sent the following message :-

" ... The very good work which is being done in the Calcutta Blind School deserves encouragement both by the Government and the public and I hope that assistance will be coming in abundant measure to pull the school out of its present sad financial plight. I wish the School a bright future".

Dr. Helen Keller presented books and wrote in them: "To Mr. Amal Shah: In grateful appreciation of his noble devotion to my fellow-dwellers in darkness and who has a rare gift a clear eye guided by inward vision".

Dr. M. E. Frampton, Trustee, International Board of "Education of the Blind", U.S.A, and Principal of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind writes :-

"Greetings from the Board of Managers, Faculty and student-body of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind to our Indian friends in our sister School, the Calcutta Blind School. We have a deep respect for your professional and lay leadership, who have combined the feelings of your heart and the efforts of your minds in the service to our handicapped friends, the BLIND. Many of our people in the United States of America remember with much pleasure the visit of your Mr. Amal Shah.

We read the excellent reports of the Calcutta Scholl for the Blind from year to year, and we are proud to know the concrete evidences of sound pedagogical and administrative leadership. It has been our pleasure during 1939-41 and 1946-47 to have Mr. Amal Shah, as a student in the Teachers' College, Columbia University, and a fellow worker with the blind. He has proved himself a capable bearer of the high tradition of the Shah family, a devoted worker to the cause of the blind and gives promise of outstanding service to the field of the welfare and education of the blind in India.

We, in the United States of America, will watch with deep interest the developments in your great country, confident that neither time, tide, nor economical, social or political chaos, will be able to darken for long the onward surge of man's altruistic nature to help his less fortunate handicapped brother, the blind. My sincere best wishes to you all and may God speed your good work".

Dr. Frampton was generous in awarding scholarships of \$ 10.000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) for Principal Amal Shah's training, in U.S.A.

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"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not;

I will lead them in paths that they have not known;

I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them". -- Isaiah 42:16.



CALCUTTA BLIND SCHOOL.

Statement of Receipts.

RECEIPTS	12 months Jany - Dec. 1953		3 months Jany.'54 to March '54 Estimated	12 months April '54 to March '55 Estimated	Explanation of variations.
	Original Budget	Actuals			
1. Fees.	15,000	16,697	3,500	15,000 (a)	(a) A lesser figure has been taken, as, many requests for reduction or total free-studentship have been received.
2. Donations and Subscriptions	20,000	34,045	7,000	20,000 (b)	(b) Though actual of 1953 was greater this cannot be depended upon.
3. Borrowed from Founders' Endowment Fund.	-	19,646	-	-	
4. Sales of Garden products to Hostel and of Annual Reports and Miscellaneous other receipts	1,000	1,817	200	1,000 (c)	(c) Garden work has been reduced and two 'malis' have been discharged.
5. Interest on Investments	6,000	4,542 (d)	1,500	6,000	(d) Lesser figure is due to non-receipt of interest of Rs. 1496/4/- on Chanchal





CALCUTTA BLIND SCHOOL.

Statement of Expenditure.

EXPENDITURES.	12 months Jany.-Dec. 1953		3 months Jany.'54 to March '54 Estimated	12 months April '54 to March '55 Estimated	Explanation of variations.
	Original Budget	Actuals			
1. Establishment	44,000	44,601	10,500	42,000 (g)	(g) Lesser amount for reduction of a member of the staff.
2. Food	40,000	36,372	9,000	38,000 (h)	(h) Owing to shortage of funds diet menu has been reduced from Re.1/- per day to -/12/- a day.
3. Contribution to Provident Fund.	1,518	1,484	400	1,600	
4. Clothes	4,000	1,090	1,000	2,000	
5. Medicines	4,000	2,695	500	2,500	
6 Building repair.	15,000	6,456 (i)	1,250	5,000 (j)	(i)&(j) The repairing of the roof has been urgent, but for want of funds this could not be done and only tem- porary patch work has been estimated for 1954-55. The State Govt. have been app- roached for a grant.
7. Furniture and Fittings	3,000	1,518	500	2,000	





YOU TOO CAN HELP

THE CALCUTTA BLIND SCHOOL

1. We need MONEY. Please consult Shri M.P. Jatia, Chairman, Finance Committee regarding large donations which are Income Tax Free.
2. Discourage giving alms or begging. Instead help the School for the Blind.
3. Help in employing capable blind. They excell at simple repetitive jobs.
4. Patronise goods made by the blind.
5. Send orders to our Blind Artisans.
6. Engage blind Musicians, Music Teachers and Orchestra.
7. Help making our legislators, administrators and the public alive to the magnitude of the colossal problems of 2,000,000 Blind in India. We need A Blind Person's Act like in England and America.
8. Help in every possible way to ameliorate the sad lot of our children denied of Nature's percious gift - VISION.
9. Donate liberally.

RESOLVE TODAY TO HELP EDUCATE, EMPLOY AND WORK  
FOR THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.  
GOD WILL BLESS YOU.

\*\*\*\*\*

Donations, subscriptions and other gifts will be gretefully received and acknowledged by Mr. Amal Shah, Honorary Additional Secretary and Principal, Calcutta Blind School, Behala, Calcutta-34, on behalf of the Board of Governors.

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Please come and see the work of the class rooms between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m., 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Play-ground activities from 5 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. except on Saturdays and Sundays.

\*\*\* THANK YOU \*\*\*

Our heartfelt thanks to  
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